

## **ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE / PARENT OVERVIEW & REGISTRATION**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, essential employees, including health care workers and first responders, need a safe place for their children to receive child care allowing them to do their jobs to ensure the health and safety of Utahns. With the dismissal of schools and closures of some child care centers, One Utah Child Care has been created to connect essential employees in the health and public safety sectors only to a *free* and *temporary* network of emergency child care programs. Care will be available for children ages 0 thru 12 years old.

### **DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES**

Although the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes several sectors in its framework for identifying essential critical infrastructure workers, One Utah Child Care, “essential employees” is limited to any employees (including housekeeping, food service workers, technicians, assistants, front desk personnel, etc.) in the sectors outlined below. These individuals are determined to be necessary in maintaining continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure and additional sectors designated as critical to protect the health and well-being of Utahns.

If parents have questions as to whether they qualify, they can contact the Office of Child Care at [occspecialist@utah.gov](mailto:occspecialist@utah.gov) using the subject line: Essential Employee.

#### **Health Care and Public Health**

- Research and laboratory services
- Hospitals
- Walk-in-health facilities
- Elder care
- Medical wholesale and distribution
- Home health care workers or aides for the elderly
- Doctor and emergency dental
- Nursing homes or residential care facilities or congregate care facilities
- Medical supplies and equipment manufacturers and providers
- Pharmacies

#### **Law Enforcement, Public Safety and First Responders**

- Law enforcement
- Fire prevention and response
- Building code enforcement
- Security
- Emergency management and response

### CARE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Through the One Utah Child Care system, essential employees will be able to search for care for their children. Parents eligible for receiving care through One Utah Child Care will have two options: (1) small group care in which no more than 8 children are in each group with two caregivers, up to a maximum of three groups at each location; or (2) child care at your home during times you negotiate with the caregiver.

**Option 1 – Small Group Care:** One Utah Child Care sites will be open Monday thru Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. One Utah Child Care services in these settings is free — parents will not be charged for this care.

**Option 2 – Child Care in Your Home:** One Utah Child Care is maintaining a list of caregivers willing to work in employees' homes. These caregivers all have a current background check from the Utah Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. These caregivers also have the requisite training to care for children, including First Aid and CPR. *Parents or guardians who choose to employ an individual caregiver to provide child care in their home through One Utah Child Care are responsible for all costs associated with that care. Parents will negotiate compensation directly and independently with the individual they have contacted to provide private care.*

### REGISTRATION AND AVAILABILITY

**Parents who are essential employees from the two eligible sectors can register by completing [this intake form](#).** The goal is to have the first sites operational on Monday, March 30, 2020, and more will continue to open as they become available. Parents will identify up to three sites to place their children and the Office of Child Care will notify the parent of the site available to meet their child care needs. Parents should not contact the programs directly.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

All child care providers are required to follow strict social distancing and public health guidelines as outlined by the Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. A complete list of these requirements are provided on the [Child Care Licensing website](#).

### STAFFING

The staff at the One Utah Child Care sites have all completed a background check and pre-service training through the Utah Department of Health's Child Care Licensing program. Many of the One Utah Child Care sites are part of Utah's extensive network of child care and afterschool programs that are temporarily serving Utah's essential employees. These sites are utilizing their experienced and trained employees.